

TOCH 75th ANNIVERSARY





75 YEARS OF TOC H: 1915—1990

The Revd Philip B 'Tubby' Clayton was a man of remarkable enthusiasm and vision but he could not have foreseen that a world-wide movement would grow out of the soldiers' refuge from the Front Line that he opened on 11th December, 1915. Seventy five years later we know that the experience of Talbot House, Poperinge, and the principles discovered there, are just as important in today's very different world.

It is that experience which we celebrate this weekend. In Talbot House men were touched and changed by an open-hearted friendship which simply ignored the barriers which society erects to keep people apart. Through the decades since, men and women of many races, backgrounds and creeds have been affected by the same simple joy of acceptance, friendship, openness and a living faith.

The experience of Toc H has been an expression of living a practical Christianity in which all are welcome and all are challenged to accompany us on a journey of discovery.

Birthdays are a time to look back. In Toc H we do so with sincere gratitude for all that so many have gained from the movement. They are also a time for parties. This weekend sees three different kinds of party, all occasions for laughter and the renewing of old friendships.

The celebrations are also a time when we can truly look forward to a future rich in challenge, excitement and fun. In the words of the service on Saturday:

*We rededicate ourselves to the journey of discovery in Toc H
through developing loving relationships
and seeking personal wholeness.*

It's a fine motto and a worthy challenge as we move forward to our centenary.

Happy birthday Toc H!

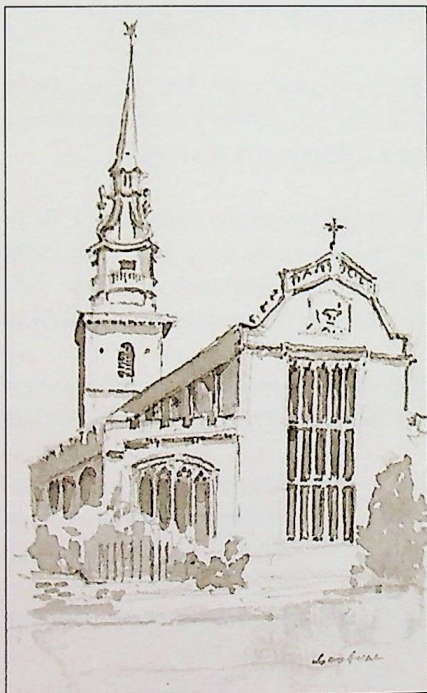
On Friday 7th December 1990, in the presence of the Lord Mayor of London and other special guests, our movement's 75th anniversary celebrations begin with an Advent Carol Service at

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER, Byward Street, London

All Hallows is amongst the oldest of all the city's churches and glimpses of its long history can be seen all around, from Roman and Saxon relics to medieval walls and a 17th century crypt. The original All Hallows was built in AD 675, 400 years before the Tower of London, and the present church has remnants and fragments from all the major periods of its history - there are Roman tiles and pipes, a Saxon arch in fine condition and remnants of two Saxon crosses which were found embedded in a Norman column after the bomb damage of 1940. The church escaped damage in the Great Fire but was rebuilt after the Second World War, a happy blend of the ancient and the neo-Perpendicular. The parish records are among the most complete sets in existence and as such are important and fascinating historical documents.

Today the church focuses on establishing links with the business community and provides a variety of times of Eucharistic worship to fit in with work patterns. The church also runs an extensive range of other activities including discussion suppers, home study groups, receptions in the aisles, afternoon drama workshops and art exhibitions.

In the midst of all this activity, the small 17th century chapel is always kept as a quiet place for prayer.



All Hallows By The Tower

ALL HALLOWS and TOC H

The Revd Tubby Clayton was appointed vicar of All Hallows in 1922. Through him the church began to develop a worldwide ministry which has been maintained by his successors. Toc H members have always felt a special affection for All Hallows, choosing it for occasions of celebration, and it is the annual venue for the South East Region's Carol Service. The inspiration of Tubby Clayton brought into being the Wakefield Trust, which largely funds the welfare work carried out by All Hallows and Toc H in the area. He was also responsible for the Toc H and All Hallows Trust, which gives book grants to people, regardless of denomination, who were helped to discover their vocation through Toc H or All Hallows and who are in training for ordination.

The celebrations on Friday 7th December continue with a special reception at

THE GUILDHALL in the City of London.

The Guildhall has been the centre of civic government for more than 1000 years, and has been the scene of far more than elections and civic activity. It has witnessed the trials of traitors, remonstrances to Kings and Parliaments, clamours for reform, brilliant receptions to Emperors, Presidents and Royal Personages, Lord Mayor's banquets and international gatherings and the conferment of the Freedom on statesmen, heroes and patriots.

The first mayor was installed here in 1192 and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs are still elected and admitted to office each year within its walls. The foundation of the present Guildhall was begun about 1411 and completed by 1440.

Two major fires devastated large areas of the City in 1666 and 1940, but the Crypt, porch and medieval walls of Guildhall emerged from the flames on both occasions without irreparable damage.

The Old Library was built in 1870-1872 from the designs of Sir Horace Jones, then architect to the Corporation. The approach to this room is by a corridor from the porch of Guildhall. In this corridor are paintings depicting many of



The Guildhall

the ceremonial occasions at Guildhall or the City.

In a perpendicular Gothic style of architecture, the building measures 100 feet in length, 65 feet in width and 50 feet in height. The stained glass window at the north end was given by the Ward of Aldersgate at the time of the erection of the building. It depicts in three upper centre lights the introduction of printing into England and represents Caxton at his printing press in Westminster. The subject of the three lower centre lights is Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, purchasing the Library of the Abbot of St. Albans.

On Saturday 8th December 1990, the National Service of Celebration takes place at

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, Trafalgar Square, London.

The present St. Martin-in-the-Fields was opened in 1726 with King George I as one of the churchwardens - the only reigning monarch ever to hold such a position. Since then it has been the Royal Parish Church, and still contains within its parish boundaries Buckingham Palace and Clarence House.

Dick Sheppard, Vicar between 1914 and 1927, made St. Martin's a household name, and was responsible for the very first broadcast of a religious service from the church in 1924. What people heard was a simple, down to earth exposition of Christianity backed up by a ministry that was particularly

concerned with the homeless and those in need. Since then, regular broadcasting on the World Service of the BBC, together with the international reputation of the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, has made the church probably the best known in the world.

Today the Social Care Unit still occupies a large part of the crypt alongside a Chinese community centre supervised by a Cantonese speaking social worker, while a Chinese chaplain cares for a growing Chinese congregation.

The making of music and a continuing concern with international affairs, the running of a business enterprise (involving a restaurant, courtyard market, gallery and bookshop) which generates finance to support the work, complete the activities of a very full life, at the heart of which is a regular round of prayer and worship not just for Sundays, but for every day of the week.

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS and TOC H

The Revd. Dick Sheppard, Vicar of St Martin's, was a member of the first informal Executive Committee of Toc H and was one of the three people (the others being Alec Patterson and Tubby Clayton himself) who drew up the first version of the Four Points of the Compass. The first article in which Tubby outlined his dream of a reborn Talbot House in London appeared in the St Martin's parish magazine of April 1919; and on the occasion of the first national gathering of the new movement, on 15th December 1921, some 700 people joined in worship at St Martin's - the church which one of them described as the 'godparent' of Toc H.



St Martin-in-the-Fields

Watercolours by John Hull